MILLENNIUM CD INTRODUCTION

When the Pinner Local History Society (PLHS) was formed in April 1972, the Pinner Village Hall was not large enough to accommodate the number of people who turned up to support this venture. Since then, the Society has gone from strength to strength, and our membership includes a number of those who attended the inaugural meeting.

That inaugural meeting was addressed by an eminent local historian, Mr. Lionel Munby, who urged the new society to work hard at researching the local history of Pinner and, of particular importance, to publish the results of their research. That advice has been well remembered with over twenty publications produced by the Society and others published commercially and by individual Research Group members bringing the numbers up into the high twenties. Details of publications are given in the cover note contained in the CD box. This compact disc (CD) represents a move by PLHS into the high tech age as our first computer media publication. No doubt others will follow.

In 1998, the PLHS Research Group invited suggestions from members for how we might mark the arrival of the new millennium. First we arranged a competition in Millennium Year for local schoolchildren to describe some aspect of the history of the house where they lived. That was a successful project, the best entries being displayed in an exhibition at the Headstone great barn formally opened by the Mayor of Harrow.

The other, more ambitious, project was to invite everyone with an interest in Pinner, individuals and organisations, to take photographs during the year 2000 of any aspect of life here, to provide future generations with a historic record of Pinner and its inhabitants in Millennium Year and to donate their pictures to PLHS with permission to use them. Pinner as a place name is capable of being defined in various ways: as a postal address; by the Parish Church boundaries; by its local government wards; or in other ways. The definition adopted for the Millennium project was the one used by the Society and its Research Group in all its publications to date, viz, the ancient parish of Pinner, with an outline of the territory comprising the ancient parish used in promoting the project.

There was a good response to the invitation, mostly but not exclusively from PLHS members, particularly members of the Research Group. By early 2001, 1,500 pictures had been received, almost all of which will be preserved in bound photographic albums held by the Society, either at a suitable location in Pinner or possibly on long loan to the Local History Collection at the Harrow Civic Centre Library. After editing, 1,130 pictures were selected for reproduction on this CD.

The pictures received covered many subjects. These were sorted into 50 separate categories. The categories varied widely in size, the smallest (Peace Garden, category V) containing three pictures and the largest (Millennium Festival weekend, category PA, organised by the Pinner Association) one hundred and twelve. In each category, every individual picture was allocated a unique identifying number. That process produced a two-stage list of pictures, List A giving category details and List B giving full details of the pictures in each category showing the unique identifying number for each picture

with brief descriptive captions. Editing was a continuous process throughout, resulting in one intended category identifier (ZN) not being used, and a number of individual pictures being eliminated in the final editing, so that some intended unique numbers were not used. These are indicated in List B. These lists will assist users of the CD in identifying pictures which they want to view. In List A, the first category contains pictures showing the transition from 31st December 1999 to 1st January 2000. The last two categories cover Christmas 2000, bringing the Millennium year to its end. Between those start and finish points, titles of categories appear in strict alphabetical order. Lists A and B appear at the end of this introductory note, before the first pictures.

A few comments here may assist users of the CD in understanding some of the categories. Two categories, B (Around Pinner) and ZE (Pinner's varied activities) are miscellaneous collections of a small number of pictures which tell something of the Pinner year 2000 story but do not fit into any of the other listed subjects. Category D (Communications) shows the rapid changes occurring in this subject in year 2000, from men climbing old style telegraph poles to the rash of mobile phone aerials then springing up in every corner of Pinner. Category EA (Developments) includes two major residential developments, one at 40 Eastcote Road on the site previously occupied by the Pinner Gas Company and later by Gas Board offices, the other a housing estate named Royale Crescent close to Roxbourne Park where Harrow Council's garden nurseries were previously located. Category M (Helping Hands) shows some community services provided by an organisation with that title formed by the Pinner Association of Churches (PAC). Millennium Year was of course a special date for the PAC which they celebrated with a joint Pentecost service held in the grounds of the Grail and shown in category W. Category S (One Pinner House in detail) has little current interest but should be of interest to schoolchildren and others viewing the pictures in, say, fifty or a hundred years' time. Category U (Pantomime Evening) shows what had, in the few years before 2000, become a very popular annual event in the lead up to the Christmas period. This category includes a number of pictures taken earlier in the day showing preparations, such as the shop window display competition, for the evening's happenings. The pictures in category ZM (Road Signs) do not have captions since the signs pictured provide their own captions. The annual Wheelbarrow Race shown in category ZV is a popular Pinner event said in the publication Panorama of Pinner Village (Pinner Association 1969) to be a modern counterpart of the old Plough Races dating back to the fourteenth century.

Finally, Pinner has a reputation for the longevity of some inhabitants (see, for example, the picture in category ZA (Pinner Cemeteries), number ZA018 showing the memorial board by the grave of William Skenelsby who died in 1775 aged 118 years). It was considered important, therefore, to include a representation of some of Pinner's older inhabitants, defined as anyone aged at least 90 in Millennium year. Not all of the nonagenarians approached wished to participate, but there is a good representation in category T which begins with a picture of 21 nonagenarians taken in the Grail garden at Waxwell Farmhouse on Sunday, 17th June 2000. The names of those included in this picture, reading left to right, are:
Front: Mr. Gordon Taylor, Dr. G. Malone-Lee, Mrs. Agnes Elphic, Mrs. Nora Van Dort, Mrs. B. Jones, Mrs. Marjorie Blaxland, Mrs. Catherine Young, Mrs. Alice Blake, Mrs.

Jane Kirby, Mrs. Joyce Gleeson, Mrs. Marjorie Salter, Mr. Ernest Robins, Mrs. Jessie Harrison.
Back: Mr. Conrad Batch, Mrs. Audrey Green, Mrs. J.I. Boothman, Mrs. Joy Clarke, Mrs. Cragg, Mrs. Winifred Marler, Mrs. Grace Hallam, Mrs. Gladys Pratt.

User Guide

Acknowledgements

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Picture E003 showing Police scene of crime officers at a house in Hatch End where a resident had been killed by an intruder, is reproduced by permission of PA Photos, photographer Peter Jordan, PA Photos.

Contributors of significant numbers of pictures included Diane Bell, Pat Clarke, Graham Elcombe, the late Jim Golland, Bernard Harrison, Ken Kirkman and Audrey Moxham (all members of PLHS Research Group); Cannon Lane First and Middle Schools; Mr. C. Galloway; Jerry Cooke (Pentecost Service, category W); Joanne Verden (Trees, category ZU); Peter Saunders (Timber Framed Buildings, category ZS); Mr. G. Attridge (Nonagenarian group picture, category T); Carl Grove (individual nonagenarians, category T); and Mr. L. Parkin (Hatch End Floods - category ZQ). About 30 other individuals also contributed pictures. Thanks go to all of them.
The members of the PLHS Steering Group who initiated this project were: Diane Bell, Pat Clarke, Maurice Garman, Bernard Harrison, Ted Hayden, OBE and Beryl Newton.
The working group who brought the project to its completion were: Graham Elcombe, Bernard Harrison, Ken Kirkman and Keith Rookledge.

Conclusion

Pinner Local History Society (PLHS) hopes that the collection of pictures contained in this CD will prove to be a good historical record of life in Pinner in the Millennium Year of interest to Pinner people and others for many years to come.